UNITED
NATIONS

TD

United Nations Conference
on Trade and Development

Distr.
GENERAL

TD/B/CN.3/GE.1/1
18 April 1994

Original: ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation
among Developing Countries
Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Economic Cooperation
among Developing Countries
Geneva, 27 June 1994
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Provisional agenda and annotations to the provisional agenda

Note by the UNCTAD secretariat

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. Review of international support to ECDC: experiences of developed and developing countries, their problems and prospects

4. Recommendations on the improvement of international support for ECDC programmes, projects and new initiatives

5. Other business

6. Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts to the Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries.

GE.94-51680

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1: Election of officers

It is suggested that the Intergovernmental Group of Experts elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur, in acordance with normal practice.

Item 2: Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

The Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, at its first session (11 to 15 January 1993) decided that an Intergovernmental Group of Experts drawn from interregional, regional and subregional groupings as well as from the donor community should be organized prior to the second session of the Standing Committee, to collect relevant information from the donor community and to indicate what prospects there might be for an improvement in assistance programmes to ECDC. As part of the preparation for the meeting, participants in ECDC programmes and projects were invited to submit their ECDC programmes and projects and the corresponding external assistance requirements to this intergovernmental meeting. The report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts will be submitted to the second session of the Standing Committee to assist the Committee in identifying programmes, projects and measures for international support.

As provided for in the UNCTAD calendar of meetings, the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries will have available five working days from 27 June to 1 July 1994.

At the 1st meeting, on 27 June 1994, an opening statement will be made by the Secretary-General of UNCTAD or his representative. It is suggested that the rest of Monday 27 June and the morning of Tuesday 28 June 1994 be devoted to discussions under item 3 of the agenda. Item 4 of the agenda might be introduced in the afternoon of Tuesday 28 June and discussions on it could continue until the morning of Thursday 30 June. Thereafter time should be provided for the preparation of the draft report to be submitted to the plenary on Friday 1 July 1994. During the session, interpretation facilities will be made available in working languages, in accordance with normal practice.

Item 3: Review of international support to ECDC: experiences of developed and developing countries, their problems and prospects

In order to assist the Intergovernmental Group of Experts in its deliberations, the secretariat has prepared two reports. The first of these reports is entitled "Scope and features of the subregional, regional and interregional components of development assistance programmes of the donor community (TD/B/CN.3/GE.1/3). A broad review of current development assistance programmes with a regional orientation and perspectives is presented in chapter I, which examines the assistance provided by more than ten countries, and three multilateral institutions and discusses the support to regional groupings. Chapter II discusses the approaches of the donor community as regards their support to regional economic cooperation and integration. It shows, *inter alia*, that these approaches vary widely, for reasons that are manifold. However, more recent initiatives and trends appear to favour the incorporation of regional orientations and perspectives in development assistance policies and strategies of the donor community.

The second report is entitled " Review and analysis of the development objectives and external assistance requirements of ECDC participants" (TD/B/CN.3/GE.1/2). The report draws on information received from 13 groupings of developing countries, and describes the main development objectives and activities of these groupings and their assistance requirements. The report also makes reference to initiatives designed to enhance donor-recipient partnerships and interactions in various areas of concern, particularly to developing countries. It refers to a wide spectrum of countries in all regions, and describes efforts being made to promote development through assistance and economic cooperation with respect to a range of jointly defined programmes.

Item 4: Recommendations on the improvement of international support for ECDC programmes, projects and new initiatives

Basing itself on the reports mentioned under item 3 above, informal consultations with donors and recipients, as well as in light of its own experiences, the secretariat has prepared a report entitled "Preliminary suggestions regarding the improvement of the scope and effectiveness of subregional, regional and interregional components of development assistance programmes of the donor community" (TD/B/CN.3/GE.1/4). The report provides the Intergovernmental Group of Experts with clusters of issues requiring possible policy reorientation, together with suggestions for the manner in which such policy reorientation could be initiated so as to improve the scope and effectiveness of the subregional, regional and interregional components of development assistance programmes of the donor community. It attempts to outline the distinguishing characteristics of such support, its rationale and the problems and issues that might arise in the context of such policy reorientation. It contains suggestions for a policy dialogue on ECDC external support, including modalities for such a dialogue and exchange of experience.

Item 5: Other business

Item 6: Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts to the Standing Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries

The Committee on Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries has been called upon to review at its second session the report of the Intergovernmental consultations, with a view to identifying programmes, projects and measures for international support .